

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Page 20, amend the paragraph spanning pages 20 and 21 to read as follows:

An example of the above-described latter possibility is described in figure 34. Hereby, two fixing parts 10 and 12 situated next to one another are connected in one piece to form a compact element which can be fixed on a profile 55 or another spacer lug by means of coupling means 56, which in this case consist of fitting parts in the shape of a seating arrangement 57 in the profile 55 on the one hand, which is provided with slanting walls 58-59, and a dovetailed part 60 which fits in the seating 57 on the other hand by movement generally parallel with the principal plane of the panels 2. In order to prevent the whole from shifting out of the seating 57, a snap-in system can possibly be integrated in the seating 57.

Page 23, amend the second paragraph to read:

According to a variant, the holders 4 can also be simply placed on the subfloor, whereby measures must be taken, however, to make sure that a mutual connection is maintained. According to a first possibility, the panels 2, which in this case consist of floor panels, can rest on the holders 4. According to a second possibility, the holders 4 can also be made so thin that they have no effect whatsoever on the actual structural support of the panels 2, but are only designed to lock the panels 2, i.e. the floor panels, in relation to one another, both horizontally and vertically. In the latter case, the covering is particularly appropriate for the application of floating floors, for example laminate floors, on a flexible and insulating underlayer. The holders 4 are hereby pressed locally in the underlayer, whereas the panels 2 mainly rest on the underlayer over the entire surface.

Page 23, amend the paragraph spanning pages 23 and 24 to read:

An example of this latter possibility is represented in figures 38 and 39, whereby strip-shaped holders 4 are laid on an underlayer 66, and whereby the panels 2 are

systematically snapped-in on it. The holders 4 hereby each have several pairs of fixing parts 10-12 which are made analogous to the above-described fixing parts, whereas the panels 2 have profiles 6 and 7 on their edges which are also analogous to the profiles of the above-described panels 2. It is clear that thus is obtained a floor covering which makes it possible to remove a panel from any place whatsoever and to put it back and/or to replace it. It should be noted that the space between the panels 2, which is required to be able to laterally move the panels 2 against the force of the fixing means, can possibly be restricted to a minimum, so that also joints which are visible on the surface of the panel 2 are minimal. Possibly, the fixing parts which co-operate with the edge 6 as well as with the edge 7 can be made such that they can be laterally moved in a flexible manner, such that when a panel is removed, several panels lying next to one another can be laterally pushed aside. This makes it possible for the panels 2 to mesh relatively far, for example with their tongue 35 and groove 36, or with other overlapping parts, whereas the mutual clearance between two successive panels 2 can be kept relatively small. When a panel 2 is disassembled, this panel 2 can then be shifted together with several adjacent panels, so that the clearances of the different panels cumulate, and a sufficiently large shift can be realised on the place of the panel 2 to be removed to allow for a disconnection without disconnection of the adjacent panels from respective holders.